# IN THE BEGINNING

Published Quarterly By
Woodson County Historical Society
Yates Center, Kansas
**Vol. 11 - No. 44**

IN THE BEGINNING

Vol. 11-No. 44 October, 1978

*Lester A. Harding, Editor*

**EDITOR'S NOTES-**

As was mentioned in the July, 1978 issue of this quarterly, the price of "In The Beginning" will be $3.00 a year and 75 cents for single issue, starting with this issue. However most of our subscriptions start with the calendar year, January, 1979.

In the July issue the number on the inside was Vol. 11-No. 43, while on the outside the number was Vol. 11-No. 41. This will make number 41 on both the January and July issues. Mistakes will happen.

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One never knows who he might hear from and just what readers of "In The Beginning" might comment on. The last issue brought a letter from E. G. Reid of Commerce, Mo. about the picture of the old Hotel Woodson on the front cover. He tells who the people are on the steps, he being the small boy with his father T. L. Reid. Also identifies the drivers of the vehicles, and other remembrances, as did Duncan Wall, who also spent his boyhood around Yates Center. His father A. A. Wall, was the teacher in the picture of the Cope school. Duncan did not know that his father was teaching during those years. He was also taking rock out of the old stone quarry at the northeast part of town. (One never knows what or who he might read about in the few pages each quarter.)

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Over eleven years ago we little thought of this quarterly as a source of genealogical information but gradually it has become that. It has brought us letters from all over the United States and many people to us looking for "Roots" to finish out family trees. It has been very interesting and rewarding, but has also taken a great deal of our time, that perhaps is not too valuable anymore. Researching is a time consuming task if you really get into it.

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$3.00 per year 75 cents per copy

## WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Organized March, 1965

The second regular dinner meeting of the Woodson Co. Historical Society to be cancelled in 1978, was the July meeting. The reason for this cancellation was because the Woodson County 4-H Fair was being held throughout the week scheduled for the meeting.

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This has been a fairly successful year for Woodson County Historical Museum. Margaret Wilson, who has been in charge mostly to get volunteers to stay at the Museum during the days it is open, has also been fairly successful in getting people to stay. There are some days when it seems almost impossible to get anyone to stay. This Historical Society appreciates the time and effort that Mrs. Wilson does.

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1978 looks like another successful year for the membership of the Woodson County Historical Society. At the present time (Sept. 1) there are 255, Life and regular members.

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### IN MEMORIAM

Loleta Fuhlhage 65 August 24, 1978

Loleta (Mrs. Glenn Fuhlhage), was a native of Toronto. Her maiden name was Cooper, and she had been a member of the Woodson County Historical Society for several years. Living in Wichita, she was unable to attend any of the meetings, but kept up an interest in the Historical Society.

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The small two by four and 7/8 inch envelope pictured on the cover page was sent to Mr. Thomas Davidson at Chellis, Kansas sometime in 1869, as the name of the town changed in 1870 to Kalida. The letter was sent from North Sewickly, Pa. There was no letter in this envelope when we received it. It seemed to cost 3 cents to send a letter back 110 years ago.

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Join and Support the
Woodson County Historical Society

Life Membership $25.00 Regular Membership $2.50

THE JAMES W. TIPTON FAMILY-

In the spring of 1879, two young men came to what is known as the Batesville vicinity, in Woodson County. Their names were James W. Tipton and Frank R. Gray. In April, 1879, the fathers of these two young men had came here and purchased 160 acres of land for each of them. Dr. A. W. Tipton was the father of James, and purchased the northwest quarter in section 28, Twp. 25, Range 14. Frank Gray, father of Frank R. Gray, purchased the northeast quarter of section 29, just across the section line apart. Both quarter sections were purchased from the M. K. & T. Railroad. The south border of these two quarter sections are a half mile north of US- 54, just to the west of the overpass at Batesville.

To build a house for young Tipton, lumber was hauled from Neosho Falls and Humboldt. These two young men then batched together for several years, and herded sheep. This would not seem very unusual but for the fact that both young men were deaf and had been schoolmates at the Deaf and Dumb Institution at Jacksonville, Ill.

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As this story is mostly about James W. Tipton, we will tell about him. James W. Tipton, second child and only son of Dr. Albert W. and Lucy D. Tipton. James born at New Boston, Ill. May 30, 1855. Dr. Tipton had started his practice at New Boston. When James was about 7 or 8 years old he developed a fever of some kind that caused.

family moved to Jacksonville, Ill., where James could attend the Deaf and Dumb Institution. Here he again took up his medical practice.

Frank Gray, of Barry Illinois had brought his son Frank R., who was also deaf and dumb here to attend this same Institution, and became close friends. As the boys grew up and graduated from this school they began to decide what they wanted to do. They did not want to become cabinet makers as so many handicapped like they were. James had an uncle that handled sheep in Texas. The two boys or young men went to Texas and helped handle the sheep to get some experience.

Dr. Tipton had become acquainted with a man named Abner Yates who told him about the country around Yates Center and that there was quite a lot of land that the M. K. & T. Railroad had control of. The land was mostly prairie to the west of Yates Center. Quite a lot of range land that was not settled. Their land was about a mile to the east of Cedar Creek.

A. W. Tipton M.D

In 1882, Dr. Tipton, had a medical book published entitled "A Revised and Enlarged Edition of Clark's New System of Electrical Medication." By A. W. Tipton, Jacksonville, Ill. A copy of this book is in the Woodson County Historical Museum.

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Coming to their home on the prairie, James Tipton and Frank Gray decided to handle sheep. They bought a flock of sheep to start with, also had their sheep dog who helped herd and roundup the sheep. The two young men also had their ponies, that they would stake them out at night with lariats and lariat pins or stakes.

In the fall after they came here, 1879, the two boys took time out to ride their poinies to Neosho Falls to see President Rutherford Hays and Party. They told that because of the huge crowd, about the only way to see the President was to climb up in a tree.

The St. Louis, Ft. Scott, and Wichita Railroad went west from Yates Center in 1883, going less than a mile from the south part of the claims of Tipton and Gray. This brought changes to the grazing habits for the sheep herders.

Late in the fall of 1883, James Tipton went back to Illinois. And on November 7, 1883, James W. Tipton was married to Miss Harriet (Hattie) Bartoo at Morgan Park, near Chicago. Miss Harriet had been a school friend of James at the Deaf Institute in Jacksonville.

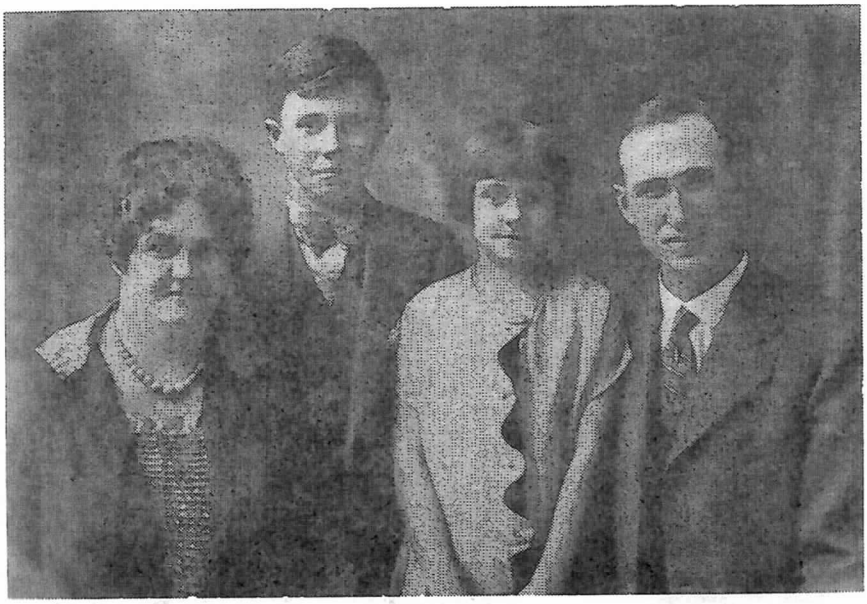
They were the parents of four children, George, A. Worline, Zula, and Lucia, that we will tell about later.

* * * * *

Around 1885 more people moved into the area, including the Lewis Klick's, J. Huff's, Lytles, N. L. Allen, and evidently others. This caused the two young men to change their grazing plans. So they decided to sell their sheep and plowed some of their land for farming and handling cattle.

James Tipton kept the weather bureau station for the U. S. Weather Bureau for that area from 1890 to 1924, sending daily reports to Topeka. He resigned in 1924, rounding out the 34 years and being the oldest in Kansas from standing of continous service.

Mr. Tipton always seemed to think that there was oil beneath the ground on his quarter section. This proved true for in 1930 oil was struck. As he lived until March, 1940, he realized some good from it.



The A. Worline Tipton Family, taken around 1925. From the left, Anna (Irvine), W. Irvine, Geraldine, and Albert Worline Tipton.

George A. Tipton, was married to Mabel Chipp. They lived the rest of their married life in the vicinity a couple miles southwest of Batesville. They were the parents of one daughter, Thelma, who married Eli Ropp. Eli and Thelma lived in this same vicinity for several years before moving out of the state. They had two children, Robert, deceased, and Betty, who married Bob Marhoffer. They had three children, Lynn, Linda, and Billy.

Zula Jeanette never married and passed away in middle life.

Albert Worline married Anna Irvine. They were parents of two children, W. Irvine and Geraldine. Irvine married Alice Beine and they had two children, Richard who lives at home and farms with his father, and Zula Ann, who married Ronald Dyer. They have a son, Brent.

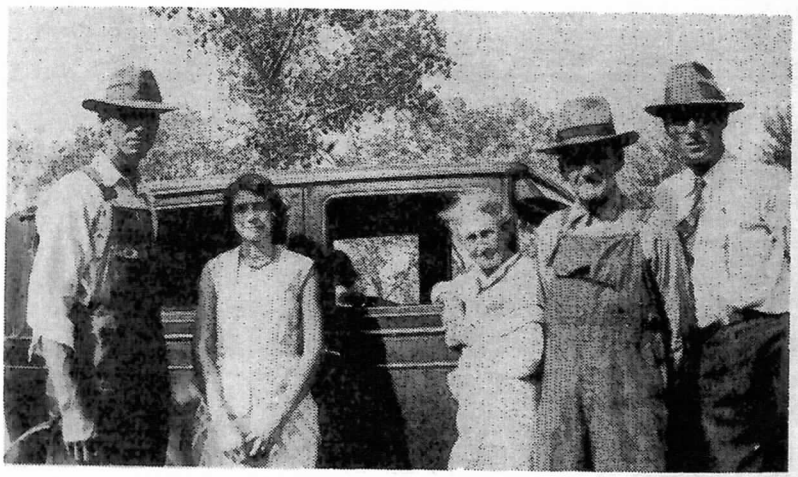
Geraldine married George Carlstrom. They have two children, Edwin, who married Gay Davis, and Linda, who married Elvin Lynn.

Lucia Tipton married Jess Crisswell and they have one daughter, Harriet, who married Murry Brown. They have a son, James, who married Mary Wylie, and they have two children, Sherry and Dale.

* * * * *

A. Worline and Anna Tipton bought the Frank Gray homestead in 1918. They had moved onto the farm in 1914. This is still their home, after 64 years of married life.

The James W. Tipton homestead still belongs to the Tipton heirs, although no on lives at the home.



Left to right, Worline Tipton, daughter Geraldine, Mother Harriet (Hattie), Father James W., and other son George A. Tipton.

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 38

In the southeast corner of section 23, Twp., Range 14, was located a schoolhouse that in recent years was known as Pleasant Hill. This school district was organized sometime in the early 1870's. Duck Creek was about a half mile to the north of the schoolhouse, curving to the south to within about a quarter mile on the west. At one time it was called the Duck Creek school. Back in the days when it was founded it was known as the Raber School. This name came from U. V. Raber, one of the first settlers along that part of Duck Creek and surely one of the promoters for the school.

The school building as we knew it was probably not the first schoolhouse, but it is still standing although it has been used to store grain in for quite a few years.

The first teacher we have a record of was the term starting September 11, 1882, with L. F. Ellis as teacher. The next teacher, 1883, Ada Smith; 1884-85, H. W. Bell; '86, Clara Fergus; '87, C. A. Stotts; '88, L. N. Tallman; '89, Lottie Asken; '90, S. G. Keck; '91, L. N. Tallman. During this term of school, Mr. Tallman had some difficulty with a couple of the larger boys attending school. This led to a showdown during school time, when Mr. Tallman tried to discipline them. It ended after Tallman during a scuffle got both boys down under their seats and finished flogging them. The school board asked for his resignation, which he did. The board then hired a young girl of seventeen years to finish the school term. Her name was Belle Butler, who had had just one term of normal training and had never taught school. However the term ended without any further trouble. This tale was told to the writer by Belle Butler, who was my mother.

The terms of 1892-93, were taught by Henry Old. The record skips three terms until 1897, by C. A. Scott; '98, Nellie Martin; '99, Sylvia Mitchell; 1900, Dora Frame.

Starting in 1901, it was known as a Joint district, with pupils coming from Coffey County. The teacher in 1901 was Walter Bales; '02, Homer Etter; '03, Maggie Sharpe; '04, H. O. Etter again taught; '05, Mabel Johnson. There is another gap between teachers until 1909, when Cinthis Williams taught; '10-'11, Grace Etter; '12, Florence Varvel; '13, Ethel Elliot; '14, ? ;'15, Florence Stoll; '16, Mrs. H. W. Mudge; '17, Grace Smith; '18, Mary Wrampe; '19, Faith Trowbridge; '20, Blanche Rogers; '21, Faith Trowbridge; '22, May Henson; '23, Opal Fields; '24, Bernice Smith; '25, Mrs. Nellie Manifold; '26, Winifred McCormick; '27, Avis Powell.

The years 1928-'29, '30, were taught by Edna Ritterhouse; 1931, '32, '33, Mae Turner; 1934, '35, '36, Walter Robertson; '37, Mrs. Hazel Old; '38, '39, Marjorie Cole; '40, 41, Helen Reed; '42, Mrs. Grace Vannocker. The years 1944, '45, '46, '47, '48, taught by Leota Mulsow; '49, Kenneth Wagner; '50, Marion Draper.

School Dist. No. 38 - 1911 — Back row, left to right, the teacher, Grace Etter (Mrs. Joe Deakin), Frank Kash, Walter Hearn, ? Scott, Ray Redick; Center row, Lola Berry, Norval Hearn, Phrony Kash (Mrs. Bob Reed) holding slate, Henry Reed, Grace Redick (Mrs. Loyd Reed); Front row, Walter Reed, Harry Hearn, ? Scott, Harry Merrill.

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This picture was sent to us by the little boy at left in the front row, Walter N. Reed, who lives at Oak Ridge, Tennessee. He and his wife Nola are old friends of the editor. "In The Beginning" goes to their address at Oak Ridge, each quarter.

This picture was found in a box of school pictures taken by Leota Mulsow during one of the years she taught Dist. 38. — Left to right on the swings were, Joan Acridge, Julia Ann Jones and Janet Cooper. Standing were Wesley Spencer, Jr., Charles "Chuck" Jones, Norman Zlab, Judy Cooper, and Betty Owens.

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THE JOHN RABER FAMILY

As mentioned before the Dist. 38, school had at one time been known as the Raber school. John Raber came to the Duck Creek area sometime ithe early 1860's.

John U. Raber was born in Switzerland, Dec. 9, 1896. When a young man, he immigrated to the United States, coming to Indiana. Here he met and married Miss Emily J. Baldwin. In Indiana, five of their seven children were born, Hanna, John W., Sarah, David, and Anna who was very small when coming to Woodson County. We just have the names of two children born on the homestead on Duck Creek, Mary Ellen and Louis.

John U. Raber, settled on the south half of the northwest quarter of section 24, Twp. 23, Range 14, evidently filing on this claim in 1866, as he completed his allotted time (five years), on April 1, 1871, when he went to Humboldt, Kansas, and received his U. S. Patent for the 80 acres. His Homestead Certificate was Number 301.

Raber built his log cabin and native stone fences toward the east part of the 80 acres, not far from the north bank of Duck Creek. The following year he received a Patent for the north half of the quarter section.

John U. Raber died June 22, 1897. With his wife Emily and some of their children, they are buried in the Wharton Cemetery, in Coffey County, about two miles due north of his homestead.

RUBIN (Reuben) DANIEL FAMILY

In the early spring of 1856, a wagon caravan of five wagons left the vicinity of Decatur, Illionis. There were five separate families with these eight wagons, all named Daniel. After quite a journey these wagons reached Kansas that seemed to be their destination. Reaching the Kansas frontier these families and wagons disbanded, going separate ways. Some of these came to Woodson County.

In one of these wagons coming to Woodson County was Rubin Daniel and his wife Sarah Jane. While listed in some records as Reuben, he is listed in others as Rubin. Perhaps the name Rubin is best to use here. Rubin Daniel is listed in Andreas History of Kansas as the first settler in Belmont township, as having came there in 1856. The Andreas History was published in 1883.

It would be very interesting to know just how Rubin and Sarah Jane chartered their course for their covered wagon across the county, as there were no roads nor trails except some Indian trails to follow. There may have been an occasional crude cabin some traveler had built along the main streams. These however did not stay very long.

An early Indian trail followed along the ridge on the east side of Big Sandy Creek, and here on a high bluff overlooking the Big Sandy Valley, Rubin Daniel Built their first home - a log cabin. The creek ran close to the bluff here and then took a bend to the west. This was the south eighty acres in the southeast quarter of section 27, Twp. 26, Range 14. This was the Osage Indian land and had not been surveyed and was not until several years later.

When Rubin and Sarah Jane Daniel made their long trip to Kansas, Sarah Jane was a bride of about sixteen years of age. Her maiden name was Bowman.

Rubin and Sarah Jane were the parents of five children, namely, Mary Jane, Melissa, Martha, Reuben, Jr., and Frank whose name on the 1870 census was James. The latter was born in 1869, the same year that his father died. Tubin Daniel died in 1869, and was buried in the Big Sandy Cemetery, about a mile up the creek from the Daniel homestead, one of the first in the cemetery.

While other settlers in that vicinity were able to get patents to their homesteads in 1869, Sarah Jane Daniel did not. She received a receipt for the 80 acres on April 10, 1871. The Rubin Daniel Heirs received the patent for this 80 acres, December 2, 1875.

In the meantime Sarah, or better known as Aunt Jane, left the log cabin of the bluff and built a house along the road a half mile to the west of the log cabin. A road had been built on the half section line north and south down the Valley. Reuben Daniel, Jr. and family lived in this house and Aunt Jane lived in a small house to the southwest corner of the 80 acres. Here she lived by herself, smoking here clay pipe enjoying having company. She was a native of Tennessee and a typical pioneer mother who knew the hardships, heartaches, and a few enjoyments that came to the very early settlers along the Big Sandy Valley.

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We will take up the children of Rubin and Sarah Jane.

Mary Jane married John Harp. They had two daughters, Lydia and Della.

Melissa married George Smith. They had three children Ethel, Ola and Leslie.

Martha married Charles Smith. They had a daughter, Iva. Later she married Cortes Gregory. Their children were H. Ward and James Gregory, and a daughter, Juanita E. Puckett.

Reuben Jr. married Lou Cooper. Their children were Gladys, Wayne, Jean, Lavina, Mildred, a daughter they called Ud (we did not get her name), and Victor Debbs.

Frank married Allie Williamson. Their children were Dulsie, Vernard, and Noble.

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It seems rather odd that with the number of children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren that Rubin and Sarah Jane Daniel had, there are not a single one left in Woodson County at this time, in 1978, one hundred and twenty-two years later.

During the years between 1860 and 1866, there were several marriages performed along Big Sandy Creek and some distance on both sides from the creek, by a "Rubin Daniel, Minister of the Gospel." Whether this was the Rubin Daniel we have been telling about we do not know, or it might have been another Rubin Daniel who with his family settled along Big Sandy Creek, just over a mile up the creek from the other Rubin Daniel, before 1860.

At this time we have very little about this Rubin Daniel, although his sons, William, John, and Jared lived along Big Sandy for years. Perhaps we can find out more about them later.

W. C. MILLS and FAMILY

William Christopher Mills was born at Mexico, Mo. August 10, 1874. Coming to Woodson County with his parents in 1880. Here he became one of the Woodson County's more popular auctioneers, and also sheriff. While he was given the name of William Christopher, he went by the initials of W. C., but was more familiarly known as Billie Mills.

His father was Christopher Columbus Mills who was born in Mercer County, Mo. in March, 1844, and was married to Mary Isabelle West, who was born at Mexico, Mo. in May, 1851.

C. C. Mills was a verteran of the Civil War.

Coming to Yates Center when the town was young, C. C. was an early day merchant having a general store on the south side of the square in 1884, when the first fire of the new town ravaged most of the buildings on February 15 of 1884. He rebuilt and started over for awhile. To do this Mills built a kiln and moulded several thousand bricks to use east of town.

As a young man Wm. C. Mills attended the Missouri School of Auctioneering of which he was a graduate. On November 4, 1896, Wm. C. Mills and Miss Montie Cannady were married. Montie was a daughter of Daniel and Cynthia Cannady. She was born August 22, 1875, at the Cannady home to the northwest of Yates Center. They were the parents of three children, Marie, Leo, and Virgie. Marie was married to Richard Beanway. They had two sons, Richard and Kenneth. Later Marie married a man named Lutjens.

Leo married Datha Don Marker on April 26, 1925. They had two sons, Wm. "Billie" , and Harry Robert "Bob".

Virgie married Larry Myers.

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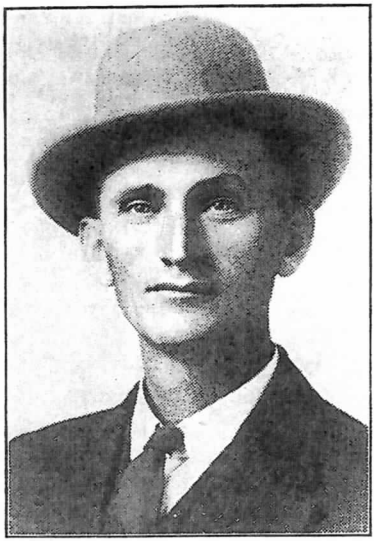
While an active auctioneer, W. C. Mills also had a real estate business. He was a member of the local draft board during both World Wars. Purchasing a farm a short distance to the west of Yates Center on the south side of the US-54, Mr. Mills fixed the pasture into the first golf course at Yates Center.

W. C. Mills was elected to two terms of sheriff of Woodson County. This was during the prohibition days and years of the 'teens.

Leo was born and grew up in Yates Center attending Law school at Lawrence where he met and married Datha.

Leo Mills became one of the leading lawyers of Yates Center, also he was Woodson County Attorney for several terms. In World War I, Leo was 1st Lieutenant, 114th Cavalry. Following World War II, he became a Lieutenant Colonel. Leo served 5 1/2 years during W. W. II, overseas 2 years and earned five battle campsign stars.



**W. C. Mills - Auctioneer**

"I will cry public sales and guarantee satisfaction. References: The Yates Center Banks, The Advocate, or anyone with whom I have done business. I am a graduate of the Missouri School of Auctioneering. Terms reasonable." (This ad appeared in the Woodson County Advocate.)

**Montie and Billie Mills - Datha and Leo Mills**

Picture taken on the elder Mill's 50th Wedding Anniversary, November, 1946.

This picture is of the 3rd and 4th grades of the Neosho Falls school during the school term of 1919-20. The pupils starting on the front row, left to right are; Madeline Saferite, Helen Cochran, Leora Gorbert, Helen Lane, Stanton McCool, Milton Byfield. Second row; Clarence Johnson, Clarence Lowe, Wanda Best, Eva Quick, Margaret Shewell, Ronald Laymon. Third row; Joe West, Harry Goodwin, Helen Holtz, Raymond Danielson, T. J. Ice. Back row; Evelyn Denny, Nannie Mae Heckman, Arthur Danielson, unidentified girl, Gilbert Meats, Newton Lieurance. The teacher was Miss Esther Morris.

When this term of school was over the teacher Esther Morris was married to Loyd Herdman in June, 1920. After living in the Neosho Falls area for quite a few years they now are living at the east edge of Yates Center. They have been married over 58 years. There is a question of whether the first school in the county was at Neosho Falls or on the Verdigris River, where Toronto now is. It would be quite a task to give names of the teachers of Neosho Falls like we do with the rural schools, but in another issue we will give the history of the first schools at the Falls.

## THE GEORGE W. WILLIAMS FAMILY

Riding horseback from Franklin County, Ind., to Woodson County Kansas was the experience of George W. Williams. He was 18 years old at the time and rode his horse along with the wagon train of his parents, James A. and Elizabeth Williams, seven brothers and two sisters. The seven brothers were John A., James R., Abraham B., Charles E., Michael M., Thomas J., Jordon M. (Pat). Jacob was born in 1870, the year they arrived here. He could have been born before the family came here. Arthur Boone was the only one born in Kansas. The girls were, Martha J. (Essex) and Nancy Ann(Baker). In due time they arrived at their destination, a homestead of 80 acres the east half of the N.W. quarter section 6, Twp. 24, Range 15. This was 8 miles north and 3 1/2 miles west of Yates Center, with "River" Jordon running through the 80 acres.

George Wesley Williams was born in Franklin County, Ind., April 15, 1852. On February 24, 1878, he was united in marriage to Charlotte Chambers, by T. S. Walker, Minister of the Gospel. They started housekeeping in a small log cabin, built in the southwest corner of section 33, just a half mile to the north of where the village of Burt was started. In this log cabin their oldest son John Wesley Williams was born, December 7, 1878.

Charlotte Chambers was the oldest daughter of Nathaniel and Phoebe (Trueblood) Chambers. Charlotte was born in Indiana, September 3, 1857. When less than a year old Charlotte came to Kansas, with her parents and located on Big Creek, about six miles south and a mile west from Burlington, Kansas. When Charlotte was four years old, her sister Margaret was two, and brother Jesse was just 21 days old, the father Nathaniel Chambers rode his horse to Neosho Falls and enlisted in Co. F, Ninth Kansas Volunteer Cavalry. His address was given as Big Creek, Coffey Co. After serving three years and three months he returned to his home on Big Creek. In 1869, Chambers purchased a farm on Turkey Creek. A daughter Amanda was born before they left Big Creek and another daughter Clara Belle was born shortly after coming to Woodson County.

In 1882, Geo. W. Williams purchased 120 acres and Nathaniel Chambers 40 acres of the Pusey Graves homestead with Turkey Creek running through the quarter section. This land was the north half of the N.W. quarter of section 33, Twp. 24, and Range 15. Later the Chambers 40 acres was added to the Williams 120 acres. It was on this farm that the rest of the children of Geo. W. and Charlotte Williams were born; Dovie C., Born March 18, 1881, Clara A., born Sept. 26, 1886, and George Nathaniel, born August 31, 1893.

**George W. and Charlotte Williams**

**The Four Children of George W. and Charlotte Williams**
To the left is Clara A., Dovie C., George N., and John W. Williams.

John Wesley Williams and Clara Edith Mentzer were married April 2, 1903, at Yates Center, by C. W. Bailey.

They were the parents of twelve children namely, Glenn Monroe, September 21, 1903; Goldie Marie, August 22, 1905; Edith Emma, January 1, 1907; John Harold, March 20, 1908; Leo Leonard, January 2, 1910; Freddie Lloyd, October 19, 1911; Helen Dove, December 21, 1912; George Wesley, February 25, 1915; Clifford Wayne, November 27, 1916; Letha May, October 1, 1918; Doris Ann, February 16, 1920; and Verna Lucille, July 5, 1921.

Glenn M., never married. He died at the age of 44 years.

Goldie M. was married to Theodore Brodman, July 21, 1940. They were the parents of three children, Glenora Yvonne, who married Dale Elgin; Mary Louise, who married Charles Jones; and Wayne Edward Brodman.

Edith Emma, married Lester A. Harding, February 17, 1928. They were parents of two daughters, Doroty Faye who married Gerald D. Osburn and Alberta Marie who married Robert E. Edwards.

John Harold married Joyce Langford September 9, 1939. They have no children.

Leo L. married Helen Barnard March 27, 1939. They have three children, Joclyn Janet who married John L. Hawley; Jerel Leonard who married Kathleen Kaske; and Kent Ryan, who married Kari Jean Annibas.

Freddie Lloyd, who married Blanch Keach, April 4, 1942.

Helen Dovie, married Orval C. Smith, May 7, 1935. They had three sons, John Lyndon, who married Vivian Hahn; Darryl L., who married Gladys Stair; and Delbert, who married Vicky Reed.

George Wesley, never married.

Clifford W, married Leona Mabel Steele, June 8, 1942. Their children are Delmer Edwin, married Sandra Lee Sechler; and Marla Fern, married James Peterson.

Letha Mae, never married

Doris Ann married Jack Claxton. They had a daughter, Jacquelyn D'ann, who married Hilary Carl Arnold.

Verna Lucille, married Leroy Faherty, March 14, 1942. They had two children, Richard Allen, who married Sharon Cunningham. Roberta married Vic Herbert.

* * * * *

Dovie Charlotte Williams was wed to Homer Obed Etter, March 26, 1905. Their children were Edward Verne, born September 19, 1908; Orville Eugene, October 16, 1912; Mary Charlotte, March 28, 1916; George Homer, July 31, 1919; Ira Kenneth, April 27, 1924.

E. Verne never married.

Orville Eugene married Pauline Marcedis Nossaman, June 2, 1940. They have a son Brian Kent; Mary Charlotte married Ralph Hugh Wiley, August 28, 1948. They have two daughters, Charlotte Janet who married Tom Sewell and Nada Kay.

George Homer was wed to Frances Clarida in 1940, at Denver, Colorado. Their children were George Homer, Jr. Linda Lucille, and Bradford; Ira Kenneth, who married Charlotte ? . They adopted two children, Jeffery and Diane.

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Clara Ann Williams was wed to Carry Francis Macroubrie, September 14, 1904. They were the parents of five boys and one girl. George Nathan was born, June 15, 1905; Carry Francis, Jr. March 2, 1907; Ivan Lewis, December 18, 1909; Ora Edmond, February 23, 1912; Clara Elvira, August 2, 1914; and Terry Elwyn, January 22, 1922.

George Nathan was married to Ada Ella Boyer February 14, 1926. They were the parents of six children, Raymond Louis, who married Dora Deane Knoblock; George Wesley, who wed Donna Marie Martinitz; Della Lou married Paul Ivan Henkle, Ada Lucille, who married Gerald Nelson Peck; Margaret Ann wed Paul Dean Martinitz; Elvie Francis was wed to Diana Carol Kesner.

Carry Francis, Jr. was married to Goldie Juanita Steele, February 2, 1931. Their children are Marjorie Juanita who was married to Leslie Earl Richardson; Dorothy Joan married LeRoy Barrett, June 9, 1956.

Ivan Lewis was married to Inez Hall, February 6, 1938. They had no children.

Ora Edmond was wed to Nula Mouse, December 31, 1937. They had one son Joel Eddie who wed Alice Allen February 20, 1960.

Clara Elvira was married to Winfred Francis Powell, July 22, 1935. They had no children.

Terry Elwyn wed August 28, 1941 to Hazel Maxine Atherton. They were the parents of eight children, Marcellia Elley, Claudia Ann, Elwyn Claude, Paula Rena, Donald Wayne, Ronald Wayne (twins), Anita Maxine, and Vicki Lynn.

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George Nathaniel Williams was married to Clara King. After they were seperated, George was wed March 23, 1933 to Fern VanArsdale. They had no children. They lived on the old Williams farmstead on Turkey Creek, until moving to Yates Center.

George N. was a verteran of World War I, serving in France and Germany with the 313 Supply Train. Company A of the 88 Division.

LETTERS OF WORLD WAR I

Sixty years ago now during World War I, boys from Woodson County were seeing much fighting, "Somewhere in France." Quite a few of the soldiers were writing some of their experiences home and they were printed in the Yates Center papers. We will try and get some of them in this issue.

From Emil Lauber - Somewhere in France, September 8, 1918.

Dear Folks - Will write you a few lines this morning to let you know that I am O.K., feeling fine. As to writing a long letter, that is a soldiers hardest job. Got a letter from Hank yesterday saying that it was mighty hot and dry there. I received a letter from Tom B. telling about his trying to get in the army. How are the oil and gas wells coming on?

It is beginning to get cooler here. I think maybe the war will be over by cold weather. What do the papers say? Lon Robson is still with me. When we get letters we always cimp. We don't get much time to write now.

The Huns tried a raid on us, but they didn't accomplish much. Some of them stayed with us and some of us got hurt and that is all that I can say. Yesterday we ate dinner up town. We got tired of the same old thing, so we got a French lady to fry eggs for us. They cost $1.08 per dozen; apricots $1.26 a quart. What we get is good. Had all the pancakes I could eat, with plenty of good syrup. We have fresh tomatoes, cabbage, and the like for dinners, and we do them justice.

Give my regards to all.

Emil Lauber
Co. L. 353rd Inf., A.P.O. 751 A.E.F.

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From Paul Mentzer - September 1, 1918 -

My Dear Mother; - Well I thought I would try to write you a few lines this morning for the first time since I have been wounded. I am feeling pretty well this morning, but I can hardly see to write my eyes blur so.

I will try and tell you all about my troubles. I was on guard at a strong position on a front line when a nine-inch shell came along and bursted about ten feet from me. Well, I didn't know anything for about four hours, I guess. When I did come to I found I had a piece of shrapnel in my chest which came awful near getting me. It went clear under my ribs. The doctor said it just came a fraction of an inch getting me. There was also one in my left leg, just above my knee about four inches. I got another shrapnel which was about four inches long and two inches wide and it went almost to the bone.

I tell you it sure is sore. Then my eyes were nearly put out. I couldn't see for four days to amount to anything. I can't read yet, only very large print. My face was burned by the powder from the shell, and I was shell shocked also and gassed. Well to make a long story short, I had seven wounds, besides some small ones. There were seven wounded by the same shell and two killed. The boy that was standing beside me was blown all to pieces and died instantly. Poor kid, he never knew what struck him. I tell you mamma, it's terrible. I tell you I had a hard fight for my life, but with God's help and my strong constitution I pulled through all right.

After I was hit I first went to the aid station to have my wounds wrapped up so that I wouldn't bleed to death before I could get to the field hospital. I was carried on stretchers for about three miles, then put in an ambulance truck for about fifteen miles where I was operated on to get the pieces of shrapnel out of my body. I was wounded at 5 a.m. and I do not know what time I went under the influence of either but I do know when I came out from under the influence of it. It was 10 p.m. that night. I stayed there three days until I was able to be taken to the base hospital. I had fine treatment at the field hospital. It was about 75 miles from the field hospital to the base hospital. I was transferred in an ambulance with beds in it, so I was handled very nicely. When I arrived at the base hospital I was worn out, but I found to my surprise, a big fine first class hospital with American nurses. I am certainly treated well, better than I expected to be.

The nurse comes often; she feeds me with a spoon. If I stay here long enough I will get my mail here, but if I don't it will be kept for me at my company.

I have been in the trenches three time. We sure have them on the run now. We are hoping for victory soon and our safe return home — back to the good old U.S.A. I suppose you got the letter the chaplain wrote for me.

Well, I must close for my eyes will hardly let me write. Don't worry about me, for I am getting along fine. Good-by, good luck and God Bless you all.

Paul E. Mentzer,
Co. E, 139th Inf. A.E.F.

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One of the faithful writers to the Yates Center News during World War I, was Ben Depew. We will print a part of his letter of Sunday, August 18, 1918.

On Active Service.

My Dear Mother and Folks; -

Sunday again with lots of time to sit around in the sun and think. No we are not suffering any from heat and are glad when a few stray shafts of sunlight percolate through the tall trees on our camp. From fear with mixing with the censor I won't attempt a description of our locality but will again apply that overworked adjective "beautiful" and let it go at that. I would like to be there to help you and Lon and Will celebrate your birthdays. It may be that that long looked for letter of mine written on Mother's Day is lost. In fact all of my earlier letters have met with some untimely fate.

Church was held this morning in our battalion area. Each battalion now has a chaplin and our new one made his first talk before his new flock. We have the band with us which adds a great deal to the services. Concerts are held most every night. This is a wise provision as a band is one of the greatest factors in producing army "morale," in other words, spirit.

You folks and the people of Kansas in general no doubt have been anxiously scanning the casuality list and wondering if this regiment is engaged northeast of Paris. It didn't happen to be our time to fight and we only hope that we can duplicate the work of those Yanks when we are called on. It makes us a little prouder of army just to read of what they are doing just as it thrills you folks at home.

I am billeted close to L C., and see them every day. All are well and in the best of health excepting a few who are in the hospital. Corp. Knotts whom you might not recognize because of his moustache. After each mail distribution the fellows are right after Trueblood (Harry) and myself for "seconds" on the papers.

Well, Mother, I can hear the tinkle of mess equipment and must get out in line if I want anything. A meal missed in France is missed forever for eating is high. They have plenty of things to drink when you are around a town but eats is what we crave. The boys have learned a great deal since leaving the states. Its going to be a satisfied bunch that comes back after the war, satisfied to stay around close to home for rest of their lives. Must close this mother. I hope you are in the best of health.

Goodbye and God bless you all. Your son Ben.

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J. S. FORDYCE - Pioneer Dentist

Dr. J. S. Fordyce was born in Franklin County, near Dayton Ohio, April 9, 1849. But he was reared and educated in Indiana where his parents had moved when he was two years old. He perfected himself in his profession under Dr. Finch Wilson, a noted dentist of Green Castle, Indiana, and before coming to Kansas he was a leading dentist in Covington, the county seat of Franklin Co. in the Hoosier state.

On account of failing health Dr. Fordyce decided to come west. He came to Earlton, Kansas, in 1877, where he was engaged in farming for a few years, and went to Burlington, Kansas where he assisted his father in merchantile business for one year. His father was also J. S., his mother's maiden name was Elizebeth Sloan.

In 1884 Dr. Fordyce came to Yates Center and resumed the practice of dentistry.

**Dr. J. S. Fordyce**

After settling in Yates Center, Dr. Fordyce became a member of the Presbyterian church, of which he remained a faithful member until his death, August 1, 1916. It was at this church that his funeral was held, under the auspices of the Knights of Pythias, Oak Hill Lodge No. 71, of Yates Center of which he had been a member since 1884.

While no mention was made about a wife in two articles we read about Dr. Fordyce, we find that he was married. In 1896, Jas. S. Fordyce, 46, Yates Center dentist was married to Allie Bell, 26. She was a daughter of F. M. Bell.

J. S. Fordyce was one of the leading dentists in this county for over thirty years. The first notice of his profession as a dentist was found in "The News", of October 22, 1886, in an ad that read. J. S. Fordyce - DENTIST - "Makes artificial teeth, cleans, fills and saves the natural teeth. No charge for examination. Teeth extracted without pain by the use of Vitalized Air. Prices as low as good work will permit."

In the "Woodson Gazette," of February 21, 1896, he announced that his "Office; Southwest corner of Square, over Buckofzer's Store."

Dr. Fordyce was the last of his family, his only sister dying in Yates Center, March 11, 1916.

## PATRONS OF WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

Brown's Western Auto
Milton & Virginia Schornick
Kenneth & Barbara Stockebrand
John V. Glades Agency
Street Abstract Co. Inc.
State Exchange Bank
Self Service Grocery
Krueger's Variety & Dry Goods
HiWay Food Basket
Piqua Farmer's Co-op
Gaulding Oil Co.
Donald E. Ward
Morton Equipment Co.
Swope & Son Implement Co.
Campbell Plumbing & Electric
Clyde Hill
Cantrell Pontiac-Buick
Paul C. Laidlaw
Rogers Bros. Garage
Artex Manufacturing Co.
J. C. Schnell
Gambles Hardware & Home Furnishings
Superior Building Supply, Inc.
Glen Shaw
Pringle Ranch, J.W. & J. Richards
Herring Hardware & Supply
Kimbell Ranch-Ed Kimbell
Woody's Cafe
Edwin H. Bideau Associated Agency, Chanute
First National Bank-Toronto
Blackjack Cattle Co. Inc.
Yates Center Elevator
Wilma Mark
Jasper's Shopping Spot
Bill Taylor-Gen. Agent Woodson Co. Farm Bureau
Atkin Clinic
Daly Western Supply
Pyeatte-Jaynes Ins. Agency
Dyer Chevrolet
Linde Barber Shop
House of Fabrics
Milton & Marcella Wrampe
E. E. Light
Atkin Rexall Pharmacy
Campbell Funeral Home
Mr. & Mrs. Glen Baker
Piqua State Bank
Wendall McMurray
Everybody's Grocery
McGinty-Coffman Dept. Store
Al's Jewelry
Edwin G. Reid, St. Louis, Mo.
Rex Butler, Nashville, Tenn.